

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Chinese residents of North Korea had a number of schools for their children at various points in North Korea. They maintained 87 elementary schools, including several in Pyongyang and one in Chinnampo, the latter headed by CHENG Yu-yuan (鄭有源). Their one middle school, established in September 1947, was at 225 Taetaryong-ni (大統嶺里), Pyongyang. KUI Ch'eng-chih (崔成志) was principal and CHAO ling-te (趙令德)* dean of education.
2. From time to time, the Chinese community in North Korea appealed to the Korean authorities for assistance in supporting their schools.** The following letters exemplify the problems of the overseas Chinese education system:

To : Chairman of the North Korean People's Committee.
From : Overseas Chinese General Association in North Korea.***
Date : 13 June 1947
Subject: Request for Funds to Repair the Buildings of the Overseas Elementary School and to Purchase School Buses.

At the moment, the Overseas Chinese Elementary School in Pyongyang is in old and broken-down buildings in three different compounds. Such dispersion of students is proving a great handicap in their education. In order to unify the school and expand the educational facilities, we are planning to repair the buildings of the Overseas Chinese Elementary School at Taetaryong-ni so as to merge the three schools. Moreover, for those students who live far off, we hope to have buses to take them to and from school every morning and evening. These are matters of intimate concern to the educational welfare of the Overseas Chinese.

The estimated amount required for total repair work is 600,000 won.**** It will benefit all around if you can subsidize the repair work with 300,000 won and also provide the school with two buses.

To : Premier KIM Il-song and Chairman KIM Tu-p'ong.
From : Overseas Chinese General Association in North Korea.

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[illegible]

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Date : 5 January 1949
 Subject: Request for Financial Aid for 1949.

During the past year, thanks to your special kindness, we have succeeded in balancing our association's finances through trade with the Northeast.

Since then, through rapid expansion in our association enterprises, in addition to our usual association expenditures, we have to support 77 elementary schools and one middle school. For the coming year, we estimate our budget will reach the immense sum of nine million won.

At the moment, though we have tried our best, we have not yet succeeded in finding a solution to our financial problem. With your special help, however, we believe that part of our financial problem can be solved by the following method:

- 1) If you can advance one thousand tons of fertilizer from the Korean government to us at the government-fixed price, we shall export the fertilizer to Dairen and barter it for glass.
- 2) We shall deliver the glass to the Korean government at the government-fixed price. The profit from the transaction will be used as an association fund.
- 3) We should like to complete the deal by April 1949.
- 4) The above plan is merely our suggestion. If the government has other more suitable means, we hope you will let us know about them.

To : Finance Minister of the Korean Democratic People's Republic
 From : Chairman TING Hsueh-sung (丁學恭) of the Overseas Chinese General Association in North Korea

Date : 15 March 1949
 Subject: Request for Aid in Returning the Loan Made for the Building of the Overseas Chinese Middle School.

The Overseas Chinese Middle School was established in September 1947 with 1,500,000 won donated by Premier KIM Il-sŏng and material donations from the Northeast Democratic Government and the Kwantung Government Office. The remaining one million won that was needed for the construction was obtained from contributions by Overseas Chinese throughout North Korea. Because of the delay involved in forwarding these contributions, however, a loan of one million won was obtained from the Korean Central Bank.

In the early part of December, the contributions finally came in from all areas. Currency reform was just then in progress, however, and when we approached the bank for the settlement of the loan, the latter replied that they were not handling loan problems during the reform period and advised us to deposit our money and settle the loan later. We therefore deposited all our money, which amounted to over one million won, in the bank. Last spring, when the bank resumed regular business, our request to settle the loan with the deposit was once more refused by the bank. Since then, our deposit of over one million won has remained frozen. On the other hand, the bank pressed us for the settlement of the loan and has even sent us a final note.

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Up to the present, the association has financed 87 Overseas Chinese middle and elementary schools in North Korea and this without receiving any material aid from the government of the Korean Democratic People's Republic. It succeeded in maintaining up to the present, through profit from trade with Dairen, the capital which came from the food provisions donated by the Northeast Democratic Government two years ago. We have reached the limit of our resources now, however, and we are still short of over five million won needed for this year's propaganda and organization work.

Recently we have learned that the central government is planning to take over the education of the Overseas Chinese. In that case, we shall, of course, turn over all elementary and middle school facilities, including buildings and equipment, to the Ministry of Education. The bank loan was used in the building of the middle school, and the association has at present absolutely no means of returning the loan in cash. We therefore proposed the following method of settling the loan: Either have the debt paid with the middle school buildings or have it paid with our frozen deposit in the Central Bank. There is no other way in which we can meet the debt.

We are therefore submitting this request, hoping that you will find a solution that will prove satisfactory to all.

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* [] Comment: []

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** [] Comment: From the contents of the letters quoted, it appears that some aid was forthcoming, although no statistics are given except in reference to the loan for building the middle school and KIM Il-sung's contribution.

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**** [] Comment: No exact conversion of these sums into hard currency can be given for the periods discussed. See the later reference to the currency reform.

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